

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 25, 2004. Claims 1 to 137 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 14, 26, 39, 54, 70, 85, 101 and 116 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 to 10, 14, 17, 20 to 22, 26, 29, 32 to 35, 39, 43, 49 to 51, 54, 59, 65 to 67, 70, 74, 80 to 82, 85, 90, 96 to 98, 101, 105, 111 to 113, 116, 121, 127 to 129 and 135 to 137 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,633,932 (Davis), while Claims 2, 3, 6, 15, 16, 19, 27, 28, 31, 40 to 42, 44 to 46, 56 to 58, 60 to 62, 71 to 73, 75 to 77, 87 to 89, 91 to 93, 102 to 104, 106 to 108, 117 to 120, 122 to 124 and 132 to 134 were rejected under 34 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Davis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,757,741 (Hertling), Claims 5, 13, 18, 25, 30, 38, 55, 86 and 117 were rejected under § 103(a) over Davis in view of Hertling and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,337,745 (Aiello), and Claims 11, 12, 23, 24, 36, 37, 47, 48, 52, 53, 63, 64, 68, 69, 78, 79, 83, 84, 94, 95, 99, 100, 109, 110, 114, 115, 125, 126, 130 and 131 were rejected under § 103(a) over Davis in view of Herling and Aiello and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,581,092 (Motoyama). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns obtaining temporary control over a printing device. According to the invention, a user obtains control over the printing device's print capabilities or printing operations. Control may be obtained in any of various ways, but preferably includes some process by which the user is authenticated. Once control over the printing device's print capabilities/printing operations has been obtained, print jobs/images

that are not intended for the authenticate recipient are deferred from being printed out during a period in which the user has control, or put another way, until the user relinquishes control over the device's capabilities. As a result, since the user has control over the device, he/she can perform any of various operations during the control period (e.g., send a facsimile, print out a received facsimile, perform a copying operation, print out pending print jobs intended for the recipient, or even send a new print job to the device, which is printed out ahead of other jobs since the user has control). In the meantime, other print jobs, etc. that are not intended for the recipient are deferred (i.e., not printed out) while the user maintains control or until the user relinquishes control.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 is a method for obtaining exclusive control of a printing device by a recipient to print data intended for the recipient, the method comprising the steps of authenticating the recipient, providing the recipient exclusive control of the printing device's print capabilities after the recipient has been authenticated, and temporarily deferring print data not intended for the recipient from being printed and printing print data intended for the recipient during a period in which the recipient has exclusive control of the printing device's print capabilities.

Independent Claims 14 and 26 are apparatus and computer-executable process steps claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 39 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is directed more specifically to a method of printing images on a printing device, comprising the steps of obtaining control over printing operations of the printing device, and performing a process to print out an image, intended for a recipient which has been authenticated, by the printing device during a period of control over the printing device,

wherein an image not intended for the recipient is deferred from being printed during the period of control over the printing device.

Amended independent Claims 70 and 101 are apparatus and computer-executable process steps claims, respectively, that roughly correspond to Claim 39.

Amended independent Claim 54 also includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a method of controlling printing operations of a printing device, comprising the steps of obtaining control over the printing operations of the printing device, and maintaining control over the printing operations until control is manually relinquished by a recipient who has obtained control as a result of being authenticated, wherein an image not intended for the recipient is deferred from being printed until control is manually relinquished by the recipient.

Amended independent Claims 85 and 116 are apparatus and computer-executable process steps claims that roughly correspond to Claim 54.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 14, 25, 39, 54, 70, 85, 101 and 116. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of deferring print data/images not intended for an authenticated recipient from being printed and printing print data/images intended for the recipient during a period in which the recipient has control of the printing device's print capabilities, or until the recipient relinquishes control.

Davis is merely seen to disclose that, upon receiving a print job, a print node determines whether a document of the print job is a sensitive document or not, and if so, stores the document in an internal buffer memory. If the print node receives authentication

of a recipient, the print node decrypts and prints the sensitive document. Thus, Davis merely provides a way to store a document and print it out when a recipient has been authenticated. However, although the recipient is authenticated, he/she is not provided with control over the print node printing capabilities or printing operations. That is, the recipient's authentication process merely triggers a printing operation within node, but does not provide the recipient with control of the node's printing capabilities. Applicants also wish to point out that Davis and its shortcomings were discussed in the specification of the subject application at page 3, lines 12 to page 4, line 14. Thus, Davis is simply not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 14, 26, 39, 54, 70, 85, 101 and 116 are not believed to be anticipated by Davis.

The other applied references, namely Hertling, Aiello and Motoyama, have been studied but are not seen to add anything that, when combined with Davis, would have rendered the present invention obvious. In more detail, Hertling is merely seen to disclose the use of job tickets for printing a print job, where the job ticket is transmitted between a client, a queue server, and a print server. Aiello is merely seen to disclose a system for routing print jobs wherein a source computer that submits a print job for printing does not have to select the printer that the print job is to be printed on. Motoyama is merely seen to disclose a system for processing messages regarding a network resource to an end user. However, none of Hertling, Aiello or Motoyama are seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Davis, would have resulted in the feature of deferring print data/images not intended for an authenticated recipient from being printed and printing print data/images intended for the recipient during a period in which the recipient has

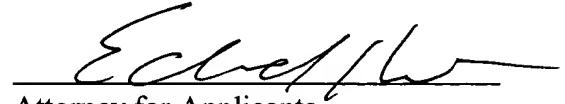
control of the printing device's print capabilities, or until the recipient relinquishes control. Accordingly, all of the claims dependent from Claims 1, 14, 26, 39, 54, 70, 85, 101 and 116 are also believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicants note that the Office Action did not include initialed Forms PTO-1449 indicating that the art cited in each of the Information Disclosure Statements dated December 22, 2000 (with supplemental thereto of March 23, 2001), May 14, 2001, October 23, 2002, and September 22, 2003 has been considered and made formally of record. However, with the exception of the Form PTO-1449 from the September 22, 2003 IDS, Applicants have obtained copies of the initialed forms from the Image File Wrapper of the subject application via the USPTO website. The Image File Wrapper inexplicably omits the Form PTO-1449 for the September 22, 2003 IDS. Therefore, Applicants are submitting another copy of that form with this Amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the enclosed form and to return the initialed form to Applicants with the next communication, together with the Form PTO-1449 for an Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith.

No other matter having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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